

16. (AMENDED) The liquid crystal display device of claim 11, wherein the color data signals are applied to the demultiplexer unit having a same color according to a sequence of a dot inversion system where each contiguous pixel of the liquid crystal panel has a reverse polarity.

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Office Action of December 17, 2002, has been received and its contents thoroughly reviewed.

By this amendment, Applicants hereby amend claims 12 and 16. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are currently pending within the present application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cairns et al. (Published UK Patent Application GB 2 333 174 A) in view of Bassetti, Jr. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,122,783, herein referred to as "Bassetti"). The rejection of these claims is traversed and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cairns et al. in view of Bassetti is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 is allowable over the cited art in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...consecutively providing the color data signals having a same color to the data lines by the demultiplexer unit before applying a different color signal." None of the cited references, including Cairns or Bassetti, either singly or in combination, teaches or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly,

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 and claims 2-10, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

Independent claim 11 is allowable over the cited art in that claim 11 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...the demultiplexer consecutively providing the color data signals having a same color to the data lines before applying a different color signal." None of the cited references, including Cairns or Bassetti, either singly or in combination, teaches or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 and claims 12-20, which depend from claim 11, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants respectfully submit Cairns et al. is not available as prior art. More specifically, Cairns et al. is a UK Patent Application GB 2 333 174 A that was published July 14, 1999. The effective filing date of Applicants' present invention, however, is its foreign priority date of March 6, 1999. Accordingly, the effective filing date of Applicants' present invention is prior to the effective reference date of Cairns et al.

In rejecting claims 1-20, the Examiner cited Cairns et al. as not teaching "consecutively providing the color data signals having a same color to the data lines by the demultiplexer unit before applying a different color" and cited Bassetti as disclosing "...in Fig. 3A, and in col. 6, lines 47-68, where color data signals having a same color are consecutively provided to the data lines before applying a different color." The Examiner then concludes it would have been obvious "...to incorporate the feature of Bassetti into that of [Cairns et al.] as they both teach a method of driving liquid crystal displays. The system of [Bassetti] is advantageous as it reduces the number of scanning lines, thus reducing power consumption and expense."

Applicants respectfully submit, however, that none of the cited references, including Cairns or Bassetti, either singly or in combination, teaches or suggest at least the aforementioned combination of elements. For example, at column 6, lines 47-68, Applicants respectfully submit Bassetti discloses “FIG. 3A shows a schematic front view of a display system 300 in which different color-producing sub-areas, 311 (R), 312 (G) and 313 (B), are placed close to one another to define a first pixel area P_{x11} in a flat panel screen area 310. The same pattern of color-producing sub-areas is repeated horizontally adjacent pixel area P_{x12} , then again... and so on, to define a horizontal row of colored pixel areas... The pattern is repeated vertically so that a vertically adjacent row contains pixels...”

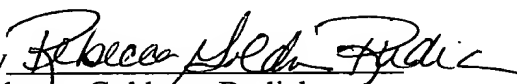
In the “Response to Arguments” section of the Office Action dated 12/17/02, the Examiner stated “[Bassetti] discloses where the sub-areas are energized, where the sub areas are shown in col. 6, lines 52, to be items 311, 312 and 313, which are individual colors. Thus it is shown by [Bassetti] that each sub area is energized.” Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Bassetti does not teach or even suggest the claimed invention including, for example, at least the aforementioned combination of elements. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 11 and claims 2-10 and 12-20, which depend from claims 1 and 11, respectively, are allowable.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner deem that a telephone conference would further the prosecution’s application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative at (202) 496-7500.

Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner of Patents to charge any fees necessary to complete this filing, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, or credit any overpayment and fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

12. (AMENDED) The liquid crystal display device of claim [10] 11, wherein the color data signal are applied to the data lines on the liquid crystal panel in a combination of sequences of color data signals of red, green, and blue.

16. (AMENDED) The liquid crystal display device of claim [10] 11, wherein the color data signals are applied to the demultiplexer unit having a same color according to a sequence of a dot inversion system where each contiguous pixel of the liquid crystal panel has a reverse polarity.